



## **BUILDERS'** Business Breakfast



By Nicole Erickson,  
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## **USF Polytechnic \$200 Million New Campus**

A \$200 million dollar polytechnic campus in Polk County is the future location of the University of South Florida Polytechnic and the lucky recipient of \$35 million dollars of PECO funds that Governor Rick Scott approved earlier this summer. This will be Florida's first Polytechnic and one of ten in the United States.

Marshall Goodman, Ph.D., Regional Chancellor and leader of the Lakeland Campus, spoke to members and guests about the levels of impact a project of this caliber will have in Central Florida and Florida as a whole.

The 555 acres in Lakeland, donated by the Williams Company, is the future home of state of the art collegiate facilities and multiple research complexes. Polytechnic universities are interdisciplinary, focus on teamwork, and promote co-op programs within various industries instead of the standard textbook and crowded lecture hall educations.

A video showing a campus that was described as "Star Trek meets Epcot" was a goal of USF Polytechnic and its award-winning architect Santiago Calatrava. This will be a living experiment, built to

meet LEED guidelines and utilize the most innovative systems, products, and technologies. Buildings will move, solar shades will have solar cells and strategic ventilation will provide energy conservation. Buildings will be designed to provide students with the best opportunities for success.



*Marshall Goodman, Ph.D..*

The first building to be released and awarded is the Innovation, Science and Technology Building along with millions in road infrastructure through government allocations. Additional infrastructure will be built through private sector investors. Following the first building the Master Plan calls for a Wellness Complex, Pharmacy School, residence halls and research labs.

The economic impact from construction for this campus is estimated at \$535 million and the estimated impact on jobs is estimated at 6,600. The Master Plan for USF Polytechnic shows campus growth for the next twenty years and all projects will go to bid.

After the breakfast, Marshall Goodman stated that he was very impressed by the amount of specialty contractors and subcontractors in Central Florida and the caliber of talent amongst them.

To view the video visit ABC's website:  
[www.abccentralflorida.com](http://www.abccentralflorida.com) ■